

U.S. Military Academy - Officer's Quarters No. 42
(Family Housing)
West side of Wilson Road, south of intersection
with Smith Place
U.S. Military Academy
West Point
Orange County
New York

HABS No. NY-5708-34

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, DC 20013-7127

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
U.S. MILITARY ACADEMY - OFFICER'S QUARTERS NO. 42
(FAMILY HOUSING)

LOCATION: West side of Wilson Road, south of intersection with
Smith Place, U.S. Military Academy, West Point,
Orange County, New York.

USGS, West Point Quadrangle, Universal Transverse Mercator
Coordinates: 18.586900.4581480.

PRESENT OWNER
AND OCCUPANT: U.S. Military Academy, Department of the Army.

PRESENT USE: Family Housing - Colonel.

SIGNIFICANCE: Quarters No. 42 is an example of the highly successful
officers' quarters designed for the U.S. Military Academy
by the office of Cram, Goodhue and Ferguson. Its character,
neo gothic, reflects the general theme of their work at the
Academy with exceptional American Arts and Crafts interiors.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1905 - 1910.
2. Architect: Cram, Goodhue and Ferguson, Architects,
Boston and New York.
3. Original and subsequent owners: U.S. Military Academy,
Department of the Army.
4. Builder: Broderick & Wind Engineering and Construction
Company. The construction was completed by the U.S. Fidelity
and Guaranty Company, a bonding company, after a default and
delay. The bonding company contract is dated September 20, 1906.
The Mitchell Vance Company supplied the original light fixtures
(Annual Report 1908).
5. Original plan and construction: Quarters No. 42 was part of a
group consisting of Quarters Nos. 21, 25, 34, 42, 45 and 48.
The total cost of these quarters was \$270,292.70.
6. Alterations and additions: There have been no major alterations
or additions.

B. Historical Context: Quarters No. 42 was one of many sets of
quarters designed by Cram, Goodhue and Ferguson as part of
the early twentieth century expansion at the Academy. These
particular quarters were intended for Captains and Lieutenants
and were approved in 1904.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: Quarters No. 42 is representative of the work of Cram, Goodhue and Ferguson at the U.S. Military Academy in the first decade of the twentieth century. The brick exterior walls with limestone detailing and painted wood trim were designed to create a Tudor Gothic appearance that would be distinctive on a campus that, at that time, was composed of a wide variety of styles. Cram, Goodhue and Ferguson were, without doubt, the most prominent architectural firm at West Point in this century. Their major building campaign at the Academy is a clear reflection of the "medievalist" craftsman philosophy of Ralph Adams Cram. This is seen not only in their other buildings at West Point, but also in their work nationally.
2. Condition of fabric: The building is in good condition.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: Quarters No. 42 is essentially a rectangular building with projecting gabled units at each end, on the rear facade, and shallow projections on the front facade. The overall dimensions are 142'-2" in length and 46'-10" in width. The large number of two-story cross gable units, together with the two-story bay windows and the arrangement of the tall chimney masses, combine to create a strong sense of irregularity appropriate to a "gothic" design. The elevation of the building on a terrace, created by a 7' granite retaining wall to the east, heightens the impressiveness of the building's exterior. Quarters No. 42 has 13 bays along the front facade and four along the north and south facades.
2. Foundations: Concrete was used for the footings, while the foundation walls are stone below grade and brick above.
3. Walls: The exterior walls are red brick laid in a Flemish bond with brick, limestone and bluestone detailing.

Limestone is used for the sills of the windows, while splayed brick lintels composed of both headers and stretchers complete the exterior window detailing. Additionally, limestone is used for the capping to the "buttress" elements on the verandas, while bluestone is used to cap the chimneys, the parapets of the verandas and for the main entry stair treads.

The only exterior wall embellishment is the protruding brick segmental arch over the openings to the verandas.

4. Structural systems, framing: The walls are load-bearing brick faced with brick on the exterior and non-load-bearing stud partition walls covered with plaster and/or wood paneling on

on the interior. Floors are supported by wood joists, and the roofing system is composed of wood rafters. Steel beams are used where unusual loading conditions exist, primarily, to transfer loads to the exterior walls.

5. Porches, verandas, buttresses, chimneys: There are three rectangular verandas: one at the northeast corner, one at the southeast corner, and one in the center of the front facade. The two end verandas are 1 x 1 bay, measure 16'-8" x 12'-4" and are incorporated into the wide roof sweep of the major cross gable units. The center veranda, projecting from the main facade, measuring 24'-8" x 14'-8", is 3 x 1 bays, flat roofed and has a raised, pointed parapet over its center entry bay. Brick "buttress" elements with limestone capping on all verandas add to the medieval character of the building. The verandas have recently been converted into screen porches through the addition of aluminum screens. The floors are of concrete while the ceilings are 1" x 3" beaded wood tongue-and-groove paneling.

The three rear porches, corresponding to the three rear entries, have heavy chamfered posts and heavy, solid wood bracketing supporting a shed roof with slate siding. Plain square handrails and balusters complete the rear porch detailing.

There are eight brick chimneys: four flank the main north-south gable ridge in the center of the building; two are in the ridges at the main cross gable units on the facade; and two are incorporated into the western walls of the two rear projections. Each chimney has segmentally arched recessed panels.

6. Openings:

- a. Doorways and doors: There are ten doorways: two lead from each of the end verandas, one main entry is on the south elevation and on the north elevation; and three rear entries, two at the ends and one in the center of the west facade.

The main entry doors are oak, measure 3'-2" x 7'-8" x 2", and have one panel below and leaded quarrel light glazing above.

The French doors, 1'-5" x 8'-0" x 2", have four lights of glass arranged vertically.

The oak rear doors measure 3'-0" x 7'-2" x 2" and have one panel below and leaded quarrel light glazing above.

- b. Windows: The windows on the facade, except for the leaded quarrel light casement windows above the verandas, are all double-hung wood sash. Windows at the central cross gable

are leaded quarrel light glass, while the remainder of the facade has one-over-one glazing. The basement windows are wood casements.

The rear elevation has a horizontal arrangement of windows with one-over-one double-hung wood sash throughout, except for six-over-six double-hung wood sash in the basement, and leaded quarrel lights on the center windows.

The north and south elevations have one-over-one double-hung wood sash windows set in pairs over the entries, and a 1 1/2 story grouping of leaded quarrel light casement windows corresponding to a stairway.

Narrow casement windows, sometimes replaced with aluminum vents, are in the gable peaks.

7. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: The gable roof is covered with multi-colored slate placed in a random pattern.
- b. Cornice, eaves: The eaves are made of wood. A narrow brick cornice is created by two projecting brick courses below the connection of roof and walls.

D. Description of Interior:

1. Floor Plans: Quarters No. 42 is a triplex with two identical units separated from a similar third unit by east-west party walls. Quarters No. 42A was surveyed for the purposes of this report. In this unit, Cram, Goodhue and Ferguson created a quarters that has four rooms arranged in a "U" around a hall/stairway that extends from the northern projection to the center of the unit on the first and second floors. A parlor, dining room, library and kitchen are on the first floor; four bedrooms and two baths are on the second floor; and two bedrooms, a bath and a trunk room are on the third floor.

There is a strong flow of open space on the first level. One large opening, 5'-8" x 7'-0", leads from the hall to the parlor, while the hall extends south to doorways into the dining room and rear hall. Quarters No. 42A, however, is much less open than the other Cram, Goodhue and Ferguson quarters at West Point. The library is serviced by a 2'-10" x 7'-0" doorway, while a swinging door connects the dining room and kitchen.

The second and third floors, with smaller doorways and good distances between openings, are much more private in plan.

2. Stairways: Two stairways service Quarters No. 42A: a main "U" stairway servicing the first and second floors, and a rear "U" stairway running from the basement to the third floors. The main stairway has a square newel post with a turned top, square balusters turned at 45° and 1" x 4" units between these with cutouts. The rear stairway has square wood posts and balusters and a plain handrail.
3. Flooring: Oak is used for the flooring on the first floor, heart pine on the second and third floors, and concrete in the basement.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: There is a fair amount of variety to the wall finishes on the first level. The main hall and vestibule have a wainscoting to 5'-6" with vertical oak trim at the corners. The parlor has wainscoting to 7' with 1" x 6" vertical oak boards at approximately 2' on center over plaster walls. The library and dining room have a 7' wainscoting with plaster walls below. The kitchen has been remodeled with linoleum floors and plaster walls.

The second and third floors have plaster walls, while the basement has plaster, brick and stone walls painted white.

Ceilings are plaster throughout.

5. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: Quarters No. 42 has four-panel wood doors measuring 2'-10" x 7'-0" x 1 3/4" with plain wood trim on the first floor and beaded wood trim on the second, third, and basement levels.
6. Built-in features and hardware: The most distinctive feature is what appears to be an original radiator cover in the main hall.
7. Mechanical Equipment:
 - a. Heating: Steam radiators provide heating for the building.
 - b. Lighting: Incandescent lighting is used throughout.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: Quarters No. 42 is the northernmost unit of three Cram, Goodhue and Ferguson triplexes located along Wilson Road. The building is oriented to the east with a terrace in front created by a 7' retaining wall. To the other side of Wilson Road, the land drops off sharply toward the Hudson River. To the north, across Smith Place, the land rises sharply on

a heavily wooded hillside. To the west, across the rear service road, the land is fairly level, eventually rising again further on. A small, flat roofed brick garage is situated behind Quarters No. 42. To the south, and slightly below, is Cram, Goodhue and Ferguson Quarters #45 (HABS No. NY 5708-35). A few deciduous trees are scattered about the site.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- A. Architectural Drawings: Original ink-on-linen working drawings are in the Facilities Engineer's office, Directorate of Engineering and Housing, U.S. Military Academy. Subsequent alteration drawings are also found there.
- B. Early Views: Early photographs can be found in the U.S. Military Academy Archives and Special Collections. Some of these are reproduced in Grashof and Lange's volumes on this project.
- C. Bibliography:
1. Primary and unpublished sources.

Records, U.S. Military Academy Archives and Special Collections. See bibliographic essay in the Lange volume of this project for a listing of record groups.
 2. Secondary and Published Sources:

Annual Reports, U.S. Military Academy Archives

Grashof, Bethanie C. - "Building Analysis and Preservation Guidelines for Category I and Selected Category II Buildings at the United States Military Academy, West Point, New York", Historic American Buildings Survey, 1983. (HABS No. NY-5708)

Lange, Robie S. - "West Point: An Overview of the History and Physical Development of the United States Military Academy", Historic American Buildings Survey, 1983. (HABS No. NY-5708)
- D. Likely sources not yet investigated: The records of Cram, Goodhue and Ferguson.

PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

This documentation is part of a multi-year project sponsored by the National Park Service and the United States Military Academy, explained in the United States Military Academy, HABS No. NY-5708, Volume I, "Methodology". This written documentation was prepared by Travis C. McDonald, Jr. and Timothy Lindblad, architectural historians in 1982-1985 based on field work conducted in 1982 and 1984.